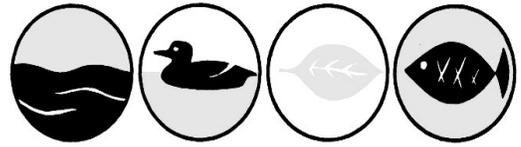


# N.I.C.C.



## September 2022 Newsletter



On August 17, 30 plus members who attended our monthly Nature Night, were treated to a very informative presentation about Falcons given by Mike Coogar. When Mike was a young boy, he read a book about falcons called “My side of the mountains”. This was just the start of his future education about these birds. He has been a falconer for 9yrs. Because all raptors are protected by state, federal, and international law, all potential falconers must obtain the necessary permits and licenses before acquiring a hawk or practicing falconry. This can take quite a while, since it includes taking a written falconry exam and getting the appropriate supporting falconer’s signatures.

He explained falconry dates back to Iran over 10,000 years ago. Of all sports in America, falconry is the only one that utilizes a trained wild creature. There are about 5,000 falconers registered in the United States. Mike stated falcons are trained like dogs. Feathery treats are given when they perform correctly. Mike brought with him a Peregrine Falcon, a Barn Owl and a Harris Hawk that was rescued from a house fire in California. He feeds and weighs them daily.

The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird in the world and is fully capable of taking ducks and other water birds and is an extremely fast flier. It can see 2 miles ahead and can fly as fast as 200mph. Once prey is spotted, these hunters begin their swoop, folding back the tail and wings, with feet tucked. Prey is typically struck and captured in mid-air; They strike their prey with a clenched foot, stunning or killing it with the impact, then turn to catch it in mid-air. If their prey is too heavy to carry, peregrines will drop it to the ground and eat it there.

These birds are permanent residents and do not migrate. They live in sparse woodland, semi-desert, savannah, shrubland, and in some parts of their range in marshes (with some trees), including mangrove swamps. They are called “wolves of the sky.” Harris hawk has a wingspan of about 1.1 metres (3.6 feet). As in other raptors, females are 35% greater as compared to males. The males weigh around 710 grams (25 oz), and the weight of the females is 1,020 grams (36 oz). Yellow legs, brown plumage are the two basic physical characteristics of harris hawk.



The barn owl is nocturnal over most of its range; but in Great Britain and some Pacific Islands, it also hunts by day. Barn owls specialize in hunting animals on the ground and nearly all of their food consists of small mammals, which they locate by sound, their hearing being very acute. The owls usually mate for life.





**HALLOWEEN PARTY OCTOBER 15 – 5pm  
MEMBERS ONLY**

We are planning a Halloween party on October 15.  
There will be a kids and adult pumpkin carving contest.  
Kids costume contest.  
Even an outdoor movie (weather permitting)  
There will be a craft area.  
There could even be a chili cook off.  
Hot dogs and s'mores around the fire

**Bring a friend**

Volunteers needed to help setup and help with various areas.  
Contact Jessie at 847-909-2494



Jason Johnson  
Matt Mercereau  
Shawn Varvil

**Don't forget our next Nature Night on September 21 at 6:30  
All about pollinators & Open Spaces**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

<b>Sept 12</b>	General/Board Meeting	7:00 pm
<b>Sept 18</b>	Trap Shoot	10 am – 2 pm
<b>Sept 21</b>	<b>Nature Night - Pollinators &amp; Open Spaces</b>	6:30 pm
<b>Oct 1</b>	Adopt-A-Highway	10:00 am
<b>Oct 10</b>	General/Board Meeting	7:00 pm
<b>Oct 15</b>	<b>Halloween Party</b>	5:00 pm
<b>Oct 16</b>	Trap Shoot	10am – 2 pm
<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Nature Night - Honey Products</b>	6:30 pm
<b>Nov 7</b>	General/Board Meeting	7:00 pm
<b>Nov 13</b>	Trap Shoot	10 am – 2 pm
<b>Dec 5</b>	General/Board Meeting	7:00 pm